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LETTER DATED 30 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to draw to your attention a statement on Bosnia and Herzegovina which was issued on 29 May 1995 by the Troika of the European Union, the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

We would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of
France

(Signed) Francesco Paolo FULCI
Permanent Representative of Italy

(Signed) David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU
Permanent Representative of
Germany

(Signed) Sergey V. LAVROV
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation

(Signed) Madeleine Korbel ALBRIGHT
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America

Annex

Statement

The Foreign Ministers of France, Spain and Germany and the European Union Commissioner for External Affairs (representing the Troika of the European Union), the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Russian Federation and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, together with the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, met at The Hague on 29 May 1995.

They condemned the escalation of violence by the parties and any hostile act against United Nations personnel.

They most strongly condemned the shelling by the Bosnian Serbs of the safe areas, in particular at Tuzla on 25 May 1995. They consider that the outrageous acts against members of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and United Nations observers are unacceptable. They hold Pale leaders accountable for the security of United Nations personnel taken hostage and warn them that they will bear the consequences if these personnel are not correctly treated and returned unharmed to their units.

The Ministers once again strongly urge the Bosnian Serb authorities to accept the Contact Group plan as a starting-point for negotiations.

The Ministers agreed on the need to reinforce UNPROFOR. To this effect, they have decided on the need to secure UNPROFOR's right of freedom of movement, in general, and the right of access to safe areas in particular and to provide the United Nations with a capacity for rapid reaction. They requested the United Nations commanders urgently to consider the modalities of these measures. They stress the importance of a renewal of the cessation of hostilities agreement.

The Ministers agreed to give a new impetus to the diplomatic process in order to reach a political settlement of the conflict, which they consider as the only possible solution. They support mutual recognition among the States of the former Yugoslavia. In that respect, they agreed to make a new effort with a view to the earliest possible Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) recognition of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the strengthening of the borders closure. A resolution on sanctions suspension should be finalized in the Security Council.

The Ministers will meet again in the near future in order to examine UNPROFOR's situation in the light of progress made by then in the above-mentioned military and political fields.